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ABSTRACT

This report summarizes findings of a survey of 684 higher education institutions offering graduate programs in the United States; responses were received from 634 institutions. Chapter 1 presents highlights of the survey, including a profile of fall 1997 graduate enrollment for each of four regional graduate school associations (Southern, Midwestern, Northeastern, and Western). Data tables include: type of institution; field of study; gender; citizenship; ethnic group; region; number of applications; and number of graduate degrees awarded. Chapter 2 focuses on trends in graduate enrollment for each of the four regional associations for the period 1986-1997. The data tables that describe year-to-year changes (in the enrollment and degree categories included in the first chapter) include data from the approximately 460 institutions that have consistently responded to the annual enrollment survey. Three appendices present: (1) the survey instrument; (2) a taxonomy of graduate enrollment disciplines; and (3) basic information on the survey, including the methodology, data, reporting, and data availability. (RAB)

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Graduate Enrollment and Degrees: 1986 to 1997

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Introduction

This report presents a summary of the findings of the CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment, a joint project of the Council of Graduate Schools and the Graduate Record Examinations Board. The publication of this report marks the twelfth year of the Survey which began in 1986. The Enrollment Survey is mailed each year to institutions that are members of the Council of Graduate Schools or one of the four regional graduate associations—the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS), the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS), the Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools (NAGS), and the Western Association of Graduate Schools (WAGS).[1]

The survey results presented here are based upon results from 634 (93%) of the institutions in the survey sample of 684. The tables and analyses that follow are divided into two chapters. Chapter 1 highlights the results of the fall 1997 survey, including a profile of graduate enrollment for each of the four regional associations. Chapter 2 presents trends in graduate enrollment and degrees over the 1986 to 1997 period. The tables in Chapter 2 describing year-to-year changes in enrollment and degrees include data from the approximately 460 institutions that have consistently responded to the enrollment survey.

This report subdivides doctoral institutions into two categories, Research I (based on the 1997 Carnegie classification system) and Doctorate-Granting (all other institutions that grant the doctorate as their highest degree). This categorization was undertaken in response to requests from CGS members for data that are more directly comparable to individual institutions.

The 634 responding institutions represent 42 percent of the approximately 1,500 institutions in the U.S. that offer graduate programs. The responding institutions enroll approximately 72 percent of the national total of 1.7 million graduate students, grant 79 percent of the 410,000 master's degrees, and grant virtually all of the 42,000 doctorate degrees awarded by U.S. universities. Since the responding institutions represent such a large percentage of the total enrollment and degrees, the trends reported here tend to be consistent with overall national figures.

This document is part of the continuing CGS effort to provide information that is useful to graduate administrators. Comments or suggestions for improving this report—or for additional types of publications—are welcome.

[1] The survey population of the CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment is limited to graduate institutions in the United States. Data on graduate enrollment and degrees in Canadian institutions are published by the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies in *30th Statistical Report*.

Acknowledgements

We thank the staff of the Graduate Record Examinations program, especially Cindy Evans and Cindy Hammell, for their work in the printing and mailing of the survey questionnaires, the processing of responses, and in the development of the survey database. Janice Goggins in the CGS office deserves special mention for her unflagging efforts to contact survey nonrespondents and her meticulous checking of the tables, graphs, and text in this report.

We also thank the graduate deans and their staffs for their responses to the Survey of Graduate Enrollment. Their investment of time and effort is the basis for the completeness and accuracy of this report.

Finally, we thank Jules B. LaPidus, President of CGS, for his continuing support of the Survey of Graduate Enrollment. Under his leadership the survey was revised and this annual report was established as a central component of the CGS research program.

Chapter 1

Fall 1997 Graduate Enrollment

Table 1.1

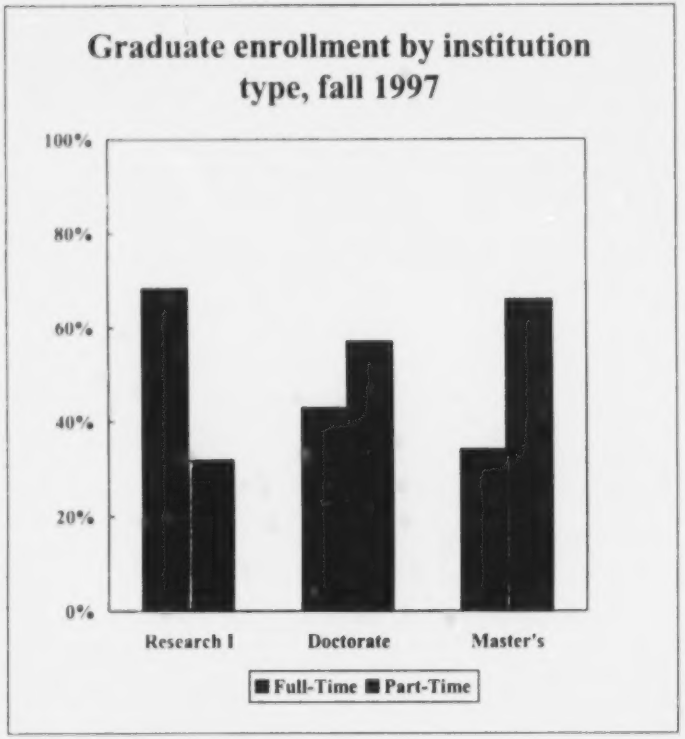
Profile of fall 1997 graduate enrollment

Institution Type	Total	Men		Women		Full-Time		Part-Time	
Total	**1,241,356**	**550,450**	***45%***	**675,358**	***55%***	**578,772**	***49%***	**590,961**	***51%***
Public	840,681	367,024	*44%*	466,513	*56%*	381,779	*49%*	405,378	*51%*
Private	400,675	183,426	*47%*	208,845	*53%*	196,993	*51%*	185,583	*49%*
Research I*	430,409	224,096	*52%*	206,313	*48%*	267,736	*68%*	124,621	*32%*
Public	320,885	164,041	*51%*	156,844	*49%*	188,597	*64%*	104,536	*36%*
Private	109,524	60,055	*55%*	49,469	*45%*	79,139	*80%*	20,085	*20%*
Doctorate-Granting*	544,138	230,812	*43%*	304,469	*57%*	224,004	*43%*	298,085	*57%*
Public	350,511	146,817	*43%*	197,972	*57%*	146,847	*44%*	183,789	*56%*
Private	193,627	83,995	*44%*	106,497	*56%*	77,157	*40%*	114,296	*60%*
Master's-Granting*	266,809	95,542	*37%*	164,576	*63%*	87,032	*34%*	168,255	*66%*
Public	169,285	56,166	*33%*	111,697	*67%*	46,335	*28%*	117,053	*72%*
Private	97,524	39,376	*43%*	52,879	*57%*	40,697	*44%*	51,202	*56%*

NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages are based on total of known gender or enrollment status.

*Institutions are subdivided into three categories based on the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education and degrees granted. Research I: The 88 most research-intensive universities in the U.S. Annually, these institutions each confer at least 50 doctoral degrees and receive at least $40 million in federal research support. Doctorate-Granting: Institutions that grant the doctorate as their highest degree but are not classified as Research I in the Carnegie system. This category includes institutions classified by Carnegie as Research II, Doctorate-Granting I and II, Comprehensive, Liberal Arts, and Other Specialized.
Master's-Granting: Institutions that grant the master's degree as their highest graduate degree.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment



- CGS member and affiliated graduate institutions enrolled more than 1.2 million graduate students in the fall of 1997. Fifty-five percent of graduate students were women, while men accounted for 45 percent of the total.

- Nearly 70 percent of students pursue graduate degrees at public institutions, which enrolled 840,681 graduate students in 1997.

- Institutions in the Doctorate-Granting category accounted for 43 percent of total graduate enrollment, followed by Research I with 35 percent, and Master's-Granting institutions with 22 percent of graduate enrollment.

- Consistent with earlier years, the majority of graduate students were enrolled on a part-time basis, with 51 percent of graduate enrollment reported as part time and 49 percent as full time.

- The figures in Table 1.1 highlight the enrollment differences across type of institution. The graduate student population at Research I institutions is predominantly male (52 percent) and full-time (68 percent). Doctorate-Granting institutions, in contrast, report a majority of women graduate students, and 57 percent of their students as part-time. At Master's-Granting institutions, women constitute 63 percent of graduate enrollment, and 66 percent of the graduate students attend on a part-time basis.

Table 1.2

Graduate enrollment by field, fall 1997

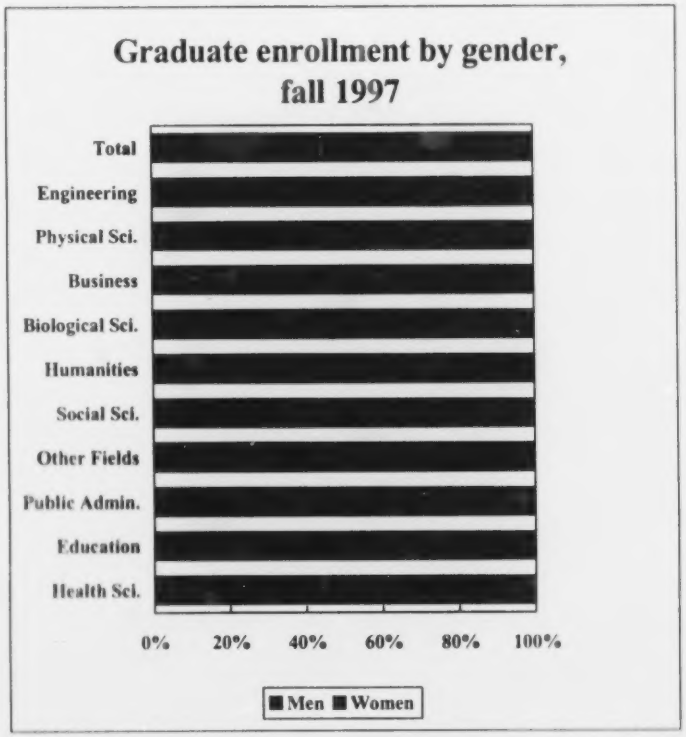
Major Field	Total	Men		Women		Full-Time		Part-Time	
Total	**1,241,356**	**550,450**	***45%***	**675,358**	***55%***	**578,772**	***49%***	**590,961**	***51%***
Biological Sciences*	62,775	32,832	*53%*	29,115	*47%*	43,056	*74%*	15,380	*26%*
Business	192,284	114,074	*60%*	75,295	*40%*	80,334	*44%*	101,992	*56%*
Education	256,579	67,359	*27%*	185,004	*73%*	77,466	*32%*	168,180	*68%*
Engineering	92,297	74,255	*81%*	17,256	*19%*	51,763	*60%*	34,475	*40%*
Health Sciences	87,028	20,493	*24%*	65,979	*76%*	48,619	*57%*	36,416	*43%*
Humanities & Arts	99,766	43,470	*44%*	55,678	*56%*	59,297	*63%*	34,761	*37%*
Physical Sciences	93,117	63,349	*69%*	28,688	*31%*	56,001	*64%*	31,596	*36%*
Public Administration & Services	49,079	13,486	*28%*	35,395	*72%*	27,383	*58%*	20,102	*42%*
Social Sciences	103,877	43,746	*43%*	58,856	*57%*	61,746	*63%*	35,905	*37%*
Other Fields**	89,740	34,957	*39%*	54,370	*61%*	36,941	*43%*	48,531	*57%*

NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages are based on total of known gender or enrollment status.

*"Biological Sciences" includes agriculture.

**The category "Other Fields" includes architecture, communications, home economics, library sciences, and religion.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment



- The fields of education and business enroll the largest numbers of graduate students, accounting for 21 and 15 percent of fall 1997 graduate enrollment, respectively. These two fields also have the highest proportions of part-time students of the fields shown in Table 1.2. At the same time, education and business contrast markedly in their percentages of men and women students (business 60 percent men, education 73 percent women).

- The fields of engineering, physical sciences, and business enroll the highest percentages of men, while the health sciences, education, and public administration have the highest percentage of women students.

- In general, there is a relationship between the distribution of enrollment by full- and part-time attendance and the graduate degree being pursued. Where the master's degree predominates (business and education), most students attend part time, and where the doctoral degree is the focal terminal degree (biological sciences, physical sciences, and humanities) full-time study is the norm. Engineering is the exception to this rule, where the master's degree is considered a professional degree, but the majority of graduate students are enrolled on a full-time basis.

Table 1.3

Fall 1997 graduate enrollment by institution type and citizenship

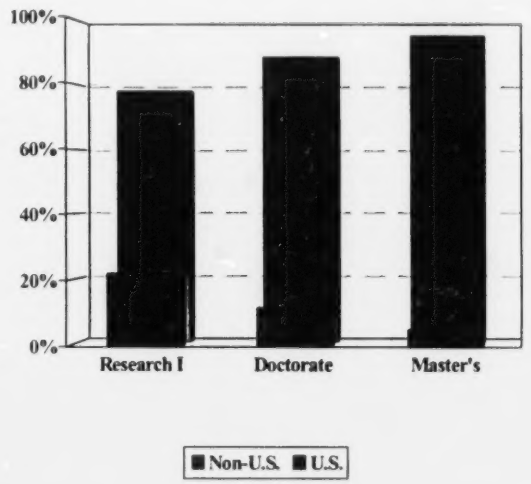
Institution Type	Total	U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents		Non-U.S. Citizen Temporary Residents	
Total	**1,241,356**	**954,751**	***86%***	**151,182**	***14%***
Public	840,681	670,254	*87%*	101,027	*13%*
Private	400,675	284,497	*85%*	50,155	*15%*
Research I*	430,409	306,889	*78%*	85,686	*22%*
Public	320,885	232,068	*80%*	58,863	*20%*
Private	109,524	74,821	*74%*	26,823	*26%*
Doctorate-Granting*	544,138	430,829	*89%*	54,963	*11%*
Public	350,511	293,877	*89%*	35,621	*11%*
Private	193,627	136,952	*88%*	19,342	*12%*
Master's-Granting*	266,809	217,033	*95%*	10,533	*5%*
Public	169,285	144,309	*96%*	6,543	*4%*
Private	97,524	72,724	*95%*	3,990	*5%*

NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages are based on total of known citizenship.

*For explanation of institution type categories, see Table 1.1 on page 2.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment

Graduate enrollment by institution type and citizenship, fall 1997



- In the fall of 1997, 151,182 non-U.S. citizens enrolled in CGS member and affiliated institutions, accounting for 14 percent of graduate enrollment. Private institutions had a slightly higher percentage of non-U.S. graduate students than public institutions.

- Institution type was a major differentiating variable in the enrollment of non-U.S. students, reflecting the concentration of international students in doctoral programs in science and engineering fields. More than one half (85,686) of non-U.S. graduate students were enrolled at Research I institutions, representing 22 percent of total enrollment on these campuses. International students accounted for just 11 percent of enrollment at Doctorate-Granting institutions, and 5 percent at Master's-Granting institutions.

Table 1.4

Fall 1997 graduate enrollment by field and citizenship

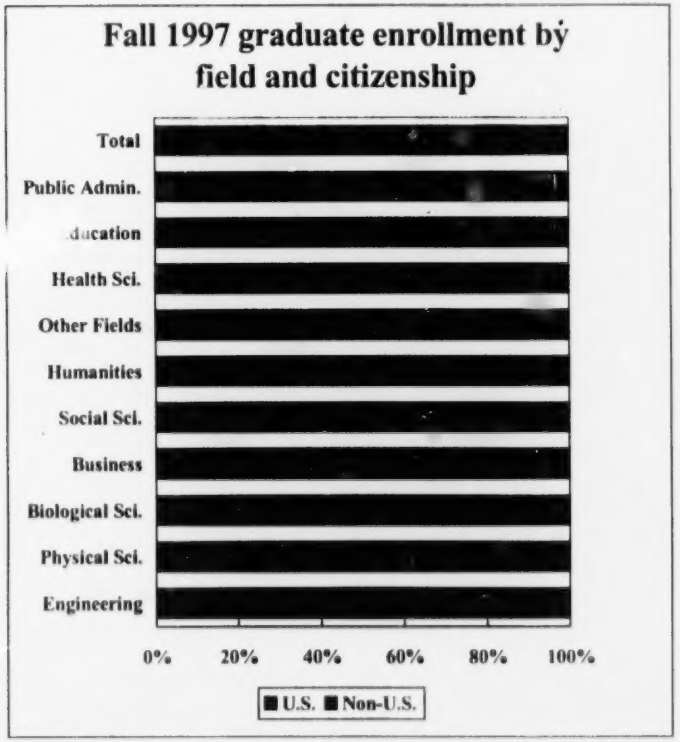
Major Field	Total	U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents		Non-U.S. Citizen Temporary Residents	
Total	**1,241,356**	**954,751**	*86%*	**151,182**	*14%*
Biological Sciences*	62,775	45,510	*77%*	13,638	*23%*
Business	192,284	145,344	*86%*	23,243	*14%*
Education	256,579	220,953	*97%*	6,499	*3%*
Engineering	92,297	50,475	*60%*	34,181	*40%*
Health Sciences	87,028	72,408	*93%*	5,596	*7%*
Humanities & Arts	99,766	80,080	*88%*	11,325	*12%*
Physical Sciences	93,117	56,381	*66%*	28,944	*34%*
Public Administration & Services	49,079	43,570	*97%*	1,191	*3%*
Social Sciences	103,877	80,226	*86%*	13,115	*14%*
Other Fields**	89,740	71,863	*89%*	8,601	*11%*

NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages are based on total of known citizenship.

*"Biological Sciences" includes agriculture.

**The category "Other Fields" includes architecture, communications, home economics, library sciences, and religion.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment



- As the two largest fields for U.S. citizen enrollment, education and business accounted for 38 percent of U.S. students. In contrast, non-U.S. citizens are concentrated primarily in science and engineering fields.

- Two fields—engineering and the physical sciences—had the highest percentages of non-U.S. citizen graduate enrollment, at 40 percent and 34 percent, respectively. The 34,181 foreign students in engineering and 28,944 in the physical sciences represented 42 percent of total non-U.S. citizen graduate enrollment. For U.S. graduate students, just 11 percent were enrolled in engineering and the physical sciences.

- Other fields with substantial foreign enrollment in 1997 were the biological sciences (23 percent), business, and social sciences (14 percent each).

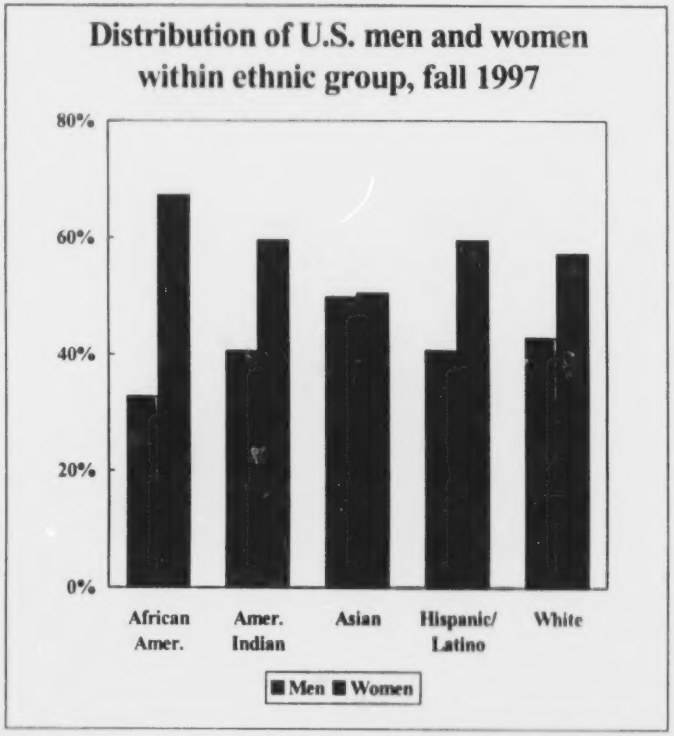
- At 3 percent each, public administration and education had the lowest percentages of foreign enrollment, again reflecting the concentration of international students in science and engineering programs.

Table 1.5

U.S. graduate enrollment by ethnic group, fall 1997

Ethnic Group	Total		Men		Women	
Total U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents	**954,751**	***100%***	**385,965**	***100%***	**529,824**	***100%***
African American	82,486	*9%*	26,277	*7%*	54,012	*10%*
American Indian	5,953	*1%*	2,243	*1%*	3,296	*1%*
Asian	51,072	*5%*	24,588	*6%*	24,927	*5%*
Hispanic/Latino	53,560	*6%*	21,067	*5%*	30,892	*6%*
White	761,680	*80%*	311,790	*81%*	416,697	*79%*

NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages are based on total of U.S. citizens and permanent residents.
Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment



- Of the 954,751 U.S. citizen and permanent resident graduate students enrolled in surveyed institutions, 193,071, or 20 percent, were members of minority groups.
- African Americans were the largest minority group among U.S. citizens, with 82,486 students, or 43 percent, of fall 1997 minority graduate enrollment.
- Asian and Hispanic/Latino enrollment totaled 51,072 and 53,560 students, respectively. American Indians accounted for 5,953 students enrolled in graduate programs in fall 1997.
- Women comprised more than half the enrollment of every U.S. ethnic group except for Asian Americans. African Americans had the highest percentage of women graduate students, with more than twice as many women enrolled in graduate programs as men (54,012 women and 26,277 men).

Table 1.6

Graduate enrollment by ethnic group and discipline, fall 1997

(U.S. citizens and permanent residents only)

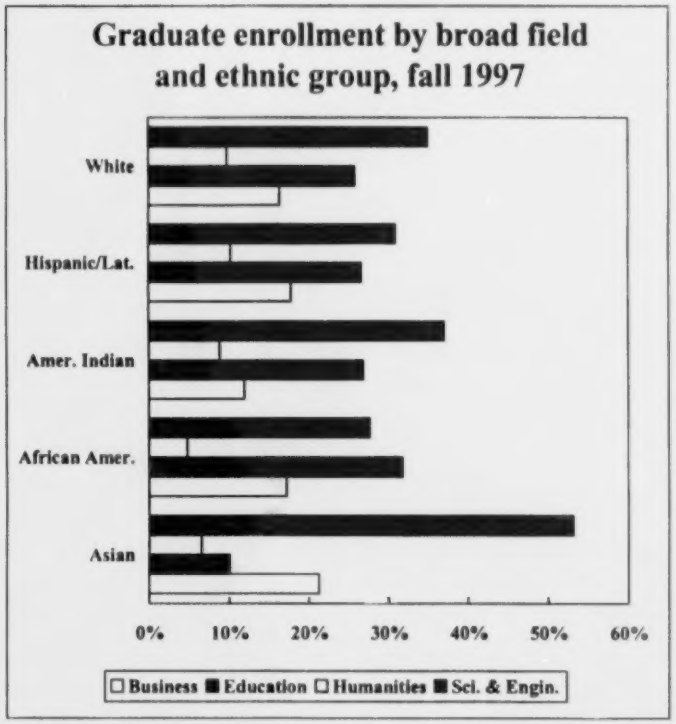
Major Field	African American		American Indian		Asian		Hispanic/ Latino		White	
Total	**82,486**	***100%***	**5,953**	***100%***	**51,072**	***100%***	**53,560**	***100%***	**761,680**	***100%***
Biological Sciences*	2,188	*3%*	249	*5%*	3,687	*8%*	2,008	*4%*	37,378	*5%*
Business	12,335	*17%*	613	*12%*	9,944	*21%*	8,590	*18%*	113,862	*16%*
Education	22,787	*32%*	1,382	*27%*	4,707	*10%*	12,869	*27%*	179,208	*26%*
Engineering	2,417	*3%*	230	*4%*	6,753	*14%*	2,588	*5%*	38,487	*6%*
Health Sciences	4,606	*6%*	414	*8%*	4,380	*9%*	2,620	*5%*	60,388	*9%*
Humanities & Arts	3,460	*5%*	457	*9%*	3,063	*7%*	4,972	*10%*	68,128	*10%*
Physical Sciences	3,110	*4%*	261	*5%*	6,558	*14%*	2,168	*4%*	44,284	*6%*
Public Administration & Services	6,629	*9%*	380	*7%*	1,314	*3%*	3,441	*7%*	31,806	*5%*
Social Sciences	7,511	*10%*	755	*15%*	3,484	*7%*	5,563	*12%*	62,913	*9%*
Other Fields**	6,751	*9%*	410	*8%*	2,936	*6%*	3,493	*7%*	58,273	*8%*

NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages are based on total of known field.

*"Biological Sciences" includes agriculture.

**The category "Other Fields" includes architecture, communications, home economics, library sciences, and religion.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment



- The concentration of graduate students in the fields of education and business (see Table 1.2) is reflected in enrollment patterns for four of the five U.S. ethnic groups.
- Asian U.S. citizens and permanent residents are the principal exception to this finding, with the lowest percentage of any group in education, and the highest in business, engineering, and the physical sciences.
- Education is the primary field of choice for American Indians, African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, and Whites, with enrollment percentages ranging from 26 percent for Whites to 32 percent for African Americans.
- Other popular fields for members of U.S. ethnic groups were business for Asians (21 percent), Whites (16 percent), and African Americans (17 percent), and social sciences for American Indians (15 percent), Hispanics/Latinos (12 percent), and African Americans (10 percent).

Table 1.7

Regional profile of graduate enrollment, fall 1997

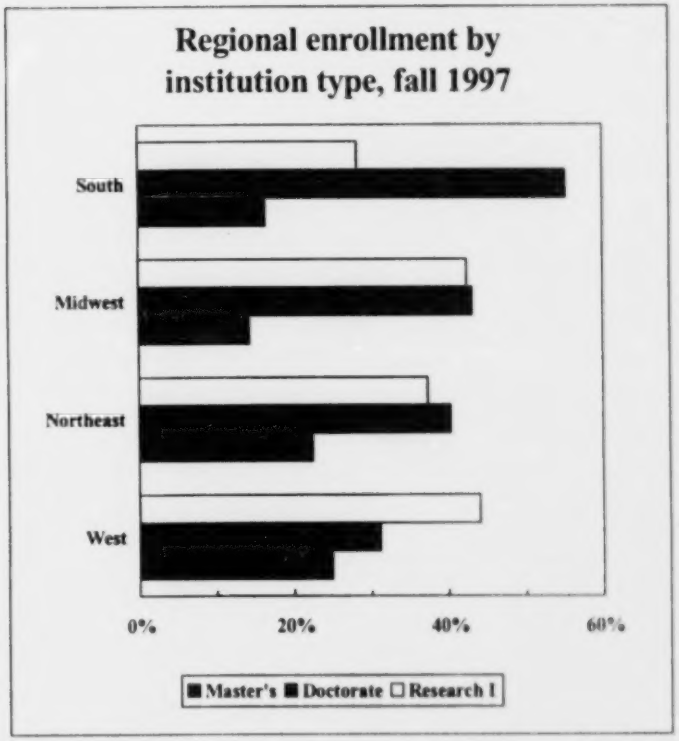
	CSGS*		MAGS*		NAGS*		WAGS*	
Total Enrollment	**375,483**	***100%***	**308,032**	***100%***	**295,977**	***100%***	**206,430**	***100%***
Public	311,653	*83%*	236,724	*77%*	133,566	*45%*	166,323	*81%*
Private	63,830	*17%*	71,308	*23%*	162,411	*55%*	40,107	*19%*
Research I	106,180	*28%*	130,827	*42%*	110,500	*37%*	90,972	*44%*
Doctorate-Granting	207,596	*55%*	133,026	*43%*	119,177	*40%*	64,141	*31%*
Master's-Granting	61,707	*16%*	44,179	*14%*	66,300	*22%*	51,317	*25%*
Men	164,254	*44%*	142,119	*46%*	128,664	*44%*	96,822	*47%*
Women	209,783	*56%*	163,875	*54%*	163,967	*56%*	108,276	*53%*
Full-time	167,977	*47%*	134,968	*48%*	127,901	*45%*	121,018	*61%*
Part-time	185,959	*53%*	148,775	*52%*	156,476	*55%*	77,697	*39%*
Non-U.S. Citizen Temporary Residents	39,080	*11%*	44,188	*16%*	39,499	*16%*	26,019	*15%*
U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents**	316,145	*89%*	237,544	*84%*	206,118	*84%*	148,131	*85%*
African American	38,987	*12%*	17,392	*7%*	17,155	*8%*	5,744	*4%*
American Indian	1,768	*1%*	1,600	*1%*	709	*<1%*	1,954	*1%*
Asian	10,718	*3%*	8,977	*4%*	11,280	*5%*	16,475	*11%*
Hispanic/Latino	15,025	*5%*	5,933	*2%*	7,188	*3%*	13,617	*9%*
White	249,647	*79%*	203,642	*86%*	169,786	*82%*	110,341	*74%*

NOTE: A number of institutions are members of more than one regional association; accordingly, the totals of the four regionals may sum to a number greater than total graduate enrollment.

*CSGS - Conference of Southern Graduate Schools; MAGS - Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools; NAGS - Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools; WAGS - Western Association of Graduate Schools.

**Percentages of enrollment for U.S. ethnic groups are based on number of U.S. citizens and permanent resident graduate students.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment



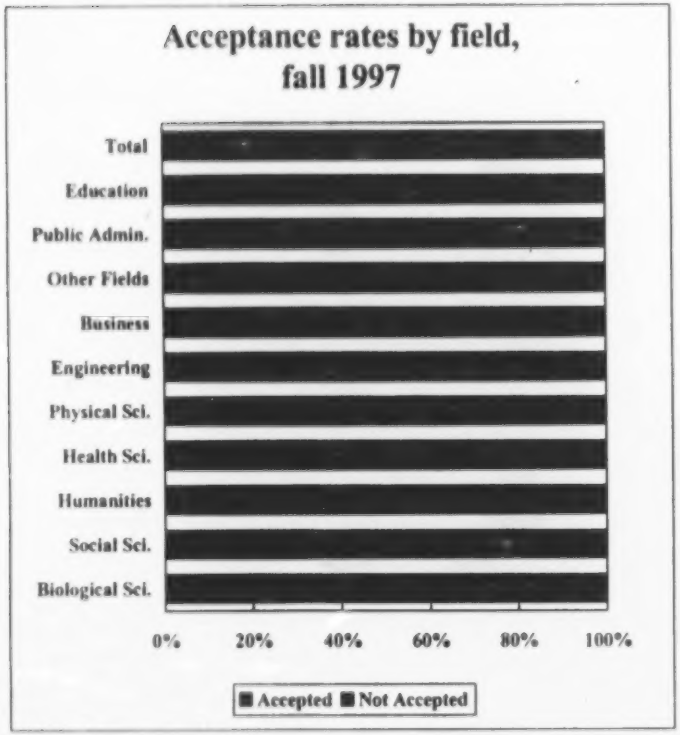
- Of the four regional associations, CSGS institutions enroll the largest number of graduate students, 375,483, followed by MAGS (308,032), NAGS (295,977), and WAGS (206,430).
- While public institutions predominate in the other regions, private institutions enroll 55 percent of the graduate students in the NAGS region, reflecting the concentration of private institutions of higher education in the northeast.
- WAGS is the only regional association with a majority of full-time students, and had the highest percentage of enrollment in Research I institutions. This reflects the influence of large research-oriented campuses in the West, especially the University of California system.
- WAGS is also the most diverse of the four regions, with the highest percentage of Asian and Hispanic/Latino enrollment.

Table 1.8

Graduate applications by field, fall 1997

Major Field	Total Applications	Accepted Applications		Applications Not Accepted	
Total	**1,024,144**	**459,696**	**46%**	**545,541**	**54%**
Biological Sciences*	78,049	21,613	28%	55,158	72%
Business	136,750	62,156	47%	70,195	53%
Education	103,079	66,900	67%	33,467	33%
Engineering	129,351	58,068	45%	70,778	55%
Health Sciences	76,596	30,804	41%	45,164	59%
Humanities & Arts	99,515	36,914	38%	60,842	62%
Physical Sciences	105,363	42,431	41%	60,837	59%
Public Administration & Services	39,453	22,144	57%	16,443	43%
Social Sciences	130,897	42,859	33%	85,839	67%
Other Fields**	89,636	46,899	53%	41,781	47%

NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total.
Percentages are based on total of known acceptance status.
*"Biological Sciences" includes agriculture.
**The category "Other Fields" includes architecture, communications, home economics, library sciences, and religion.
Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment



- More than 1 million applications were received for graduate study by CGS member and affiliated institutions. Business, social sciences and engineering lead in the number of applications received in fall 1997, each receiving 13 percent of total applications. Physical sciences and humanities followed, each with 10 percent.

- Less than one-half of the 1,024,144 applications were accepted. The wide range of acceptance rates—from a low of 28 percent for biological sciences to a high of 67 percent in education—reflects the singular circumstance of each field. For example, the low overall acceptance rate in the social sciences is affected by the fact that clinical psychology programs receive hundreds of applications for very few openings, thus generating an unusually low acceptance rate.

- Graduate programs in education are often part of the service mission of universities and therefore tend to have higher acceptance rates into master's programs. Public administration, which includes social work, is another field where the service mission of universities may result in a higher acceptance rate than the current 46 percent overall average.

Table 1.9

Graduate degrees awarded by field, 1996-97

	Master's					Doctoral				
Major Field	*Total*	*Men*		*Women*		*Total*	*Men*		*Women*	
Total	**324,399**	**133,026**	***43%***	**174,221**	***57%***	**41,741**	**23,614**	***59%***	**16,745**	***41%***
Biological Sciences*	9,160	4,500	*51%*	4,326	*49%*	5,460	3,186	*60%*	2,140	*40%*
Business	63,082	36,882	*61%*	23,466	*39%*	1,114	725	*69%*	329	*31%*
Education	76,327	17,287	*24%*	54,913	*76%*	5,897	2,008	*36%*	3,570	*64%*
Engineering	24,924	19,426	*81%*	4,617	*19%*	6,016	4,995	*85%*	860	*15%*
Health Sciences	26,709	5,638	*22%*	19,850	*78%*	1,864	738	*41%*	1,078	*59%*
Humanities & Arts	20,694	8,245	*42%*	11,368	*58%*	4,613	2,237	*50%*	2,237	*50%*
Physical Sciences	18,737	12,035	*67%*	5,942	*33%*	6,288	4,620	*76%*	1,457	*24%*
Public Administration & Services	18,450	4,937	*28%*	12,870	*72%*	343	152	*45%*	185	*55%*
Social Sciences	23,587	9,181	*41%*	12,967	*59%*	6,028	2,837	*49%*	2,945	*51%*
Other Fields**	20,673	7,587	*39%*	12,022	*61%*	1,505	772	*53%*	673	*47%*

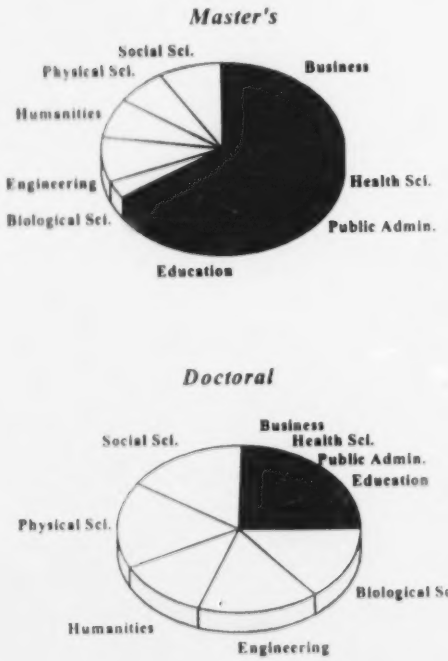
NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages are based on total of known gender.

*"Biological Sciences" includes agriculture.

**The category "Other Fields" includes architecture, communications, home economics, library sciences, and religion.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment

Graduate degrees awarded by field, 1996-97



- Responding institutions awarded 324,399 master's degrees and 41,741 doctoral degrees in the 1996-97 academic year.
- The largest numbers of master's degrees were awarded in the fields of education and business, representing 24 and 19 percent, respectively, of the master's degrees granted by the responding institutions.
- More than half of the master's degrees awarded in 1996-97 were earned by women. In the fields of health sciences and education, women accounted for 78 and 76 percent of the master's degrees granted, respectively.
- The leading fields in the number of doctoral degrees were the physical sciences and social sciences, with 15 and 14 percent, respectively, of the doctorates awarded in 1996-97. Engineering, education, and the biological sciences followed as the next three fields for number of doctoral degrees awarded.
- Fifty-nine percent of the 41,741 total doctorates in 1997 were awarded to men. Although men were a majority of doctorate recipients, women earned the majority of doctoral degrees in education, health sciences, public administration, and social sciences.

Chapter 2

Trends in Graduate Enrollment and Degrees, *1986 to 1997*

This chapter presents two types of data: total figures for 1997 and trend data from 1986 to 1997 described by annual percent change statistics. To be included in the percent change calculations, institutions must have consistently responded to the enrollment survey. In the Chapter 2 tables, the statistic *average annual percent change* represents the average percent by which the graduate student population would change each year to account for the total change over the calculated period. The average percent change statistic provides a convenient summary measure of change over time and, like a moving average, is not influenced by unusual single-year fluctuations in the enrollment data.

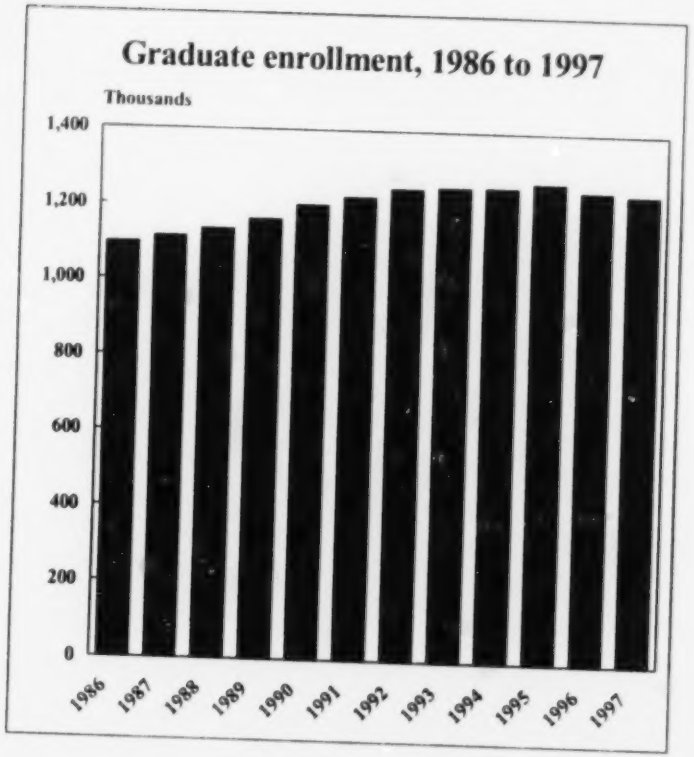
Table 2.1

Trends in graduate enrollment, 1986 to 1997

	1997	% Change *1996 to 1997*	Average Annual % Change *1986 to 1997*
Total Enrollment	**1,241,356**	***-1%***	***1%***
Men	550,450	*-2%*	*0%*
Women	675,358	*1%*	*2%*
Full-time	578,772	*0%*	*3%*
Part-time	590,961	*0%*	*0%*
Citizenship			
U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents	954,751	*-2%*	*1%*
Non-U.S. Citizen Temporary Residents	151,182	*4%*	*3%*

NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment



- Following a 2 percent decrease from 1995 to 1996, graduate enrollment declined by 1 percent from 1996 to 1997. Over the entire 1986 to 1996 period, however, enrollment has grown at a 1 percent annual rate.

- While the number of women enrolled in graduate programs increased slightly from 1996 to 1997, the number of men decreased by 2 percent. As with total enrollment, the numbers of men and women increased over the twelve years of the enrollment survey, with the number of women increasing at a faster pace than that of men.

- The number of U.S. citizens and permanent residents enrolled in graduate study decreased by 2 percent from 1996 to 1997, while non-U.S. citizen enrollment increased by 4 percent. Since 1986, the number of international students has grown at a 3 percent rate while the number of U.S. students has grown by 1 percent per year.

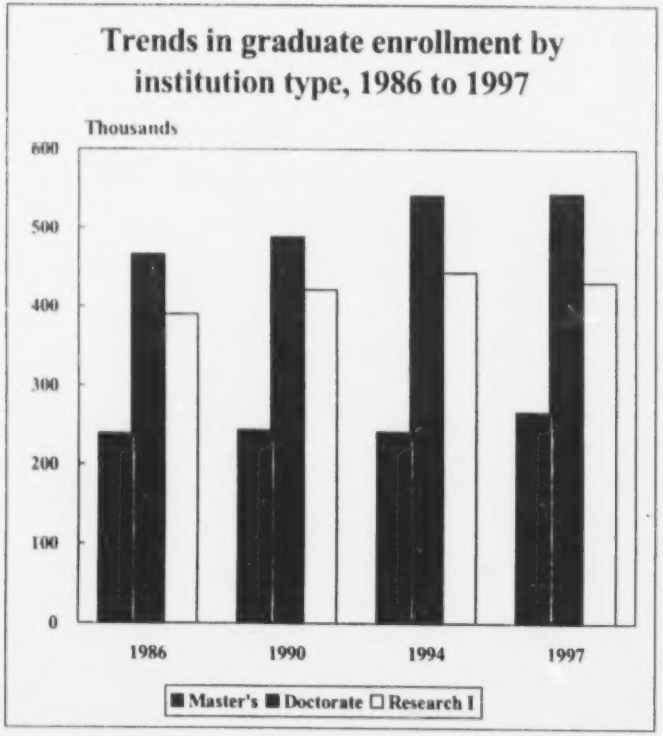
Table 2.2

Trends in graduate enrollment by institution type 1986 to 1997

Institution Type	1997	% Change 1996 to 1997	Average Annual % Change 1986 to 1997
Total Enrollment	**1,241,356**	**-1%**	**1%**
Public	840,681	*-1%*	*1%*
Private	400,675	*0%*	*1%*
Research I*	430,409	*-2%*	*1%*
Public	320,885	*-3%*	*1%*
Private	109,524	*2%*	*1%*
Doctorate-Granting*	544,138	*0%*	*2%*
Public	350,511	*0%*	*2%*
Private	193,627	*-2%*	*1%*
Master's-Granting*	266,809	*3%*	*1%*
Public	169,285	*3%*	*1%*
Private	97,524	*3%*	*3%*

*Institutions are subdivided into three categories based on the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education and degrees granted. Research I: The 88 most research-intensive universities in the U.S. Annually, these institutions each confer at least 50 doctoral degrees and receive at least $40 million in federal research support. Doctorate-Granting: Institutions that grant the doctorate as their highest degree but are not classified as Research I in the Carnegie system. This category includes institutions classified by Carnegie as Research II, Doctorate Granting I and II, Comprehensive, Liberal Arts, and Other Specialized.
Master's Granting: Institutions that grant the master's degree as their highest degree.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment



- In the last year, graduate enrollment decreased by 2 percent at Research I institutions, was steady at Doctorate-Granting universities, and increased by 3 percent in the Master's-Granting category.

- The overall 1986 to 1997 increase in graduate enrollment occurred across all institution types, but at varying rates. In general, the average increases at public and private institutions were similar. However, enrollment at private Master's-Granting institutions grew at a 3 percent annual rate while public Master's institutions increased by 1 percent.

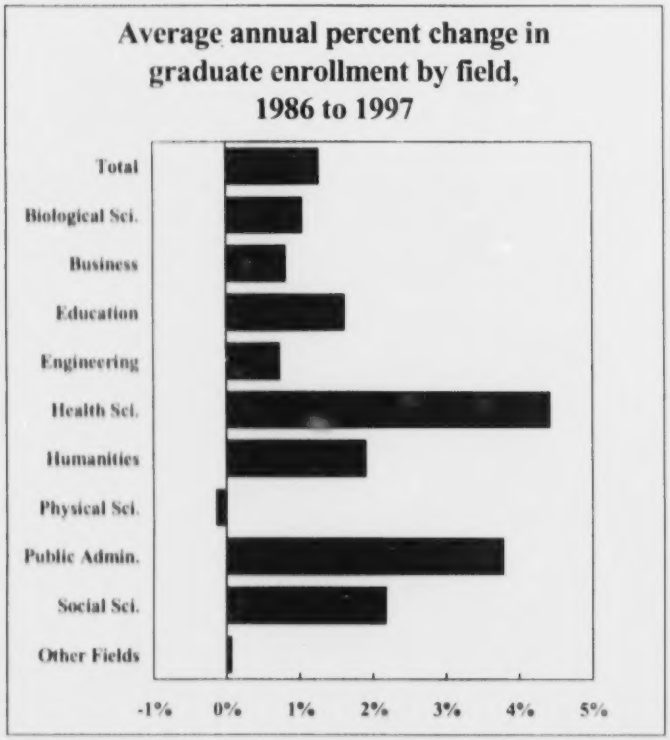
- Graduate enrollment at Doctorate-Granting institutions has grown at a steady annual pace of 2 percent over the last 12 years. Meanwhile, Research I institutions have seen a 1 percent growth since 1986, with similar average increases at public and private institutions.

Table 2.3

Trends in graduate enrollment by field, 1986 to 1997

Major Field	1997	% Change *1996 to 1997*	Average Annual % Change *1986 to 1997*
Total	**1,241,356**	***-1%***	***1%***
Biological Sciences*	62,775	*-2%*	*1%*
Business	192,284	*0%*	*1%*
Education	256,579	*0%*	*2%*
Engineering	92,297	*-3%*	*1%*
Health Sciences	87,028	*1%*	*4%*
Humanities & Arts	99,766	*-3%*	*2%*
Physical Sciences	93,117	*-3%*	*0%*
Public Administration & Services	49,079	*-2%*	*4%*
Social Sciences	103,877	*0%*	*2%*
Other Fields**	89,740	*-3%*	*0%*

NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total.
*"Biological Sciences" includes agriculture.
**The category "Other Fields" includes architecture, communications, home economics, library sciences, and religion.
Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment



- The growth in graduate enrollment over the last 12 years was reflected in enrollment increases within eight of the ten major fields displayed in Table 2.3.
- Since 1986, the fields of health sciences and public administration have grown the most rapidly, rising at a 4 percent annual rate.
- In the last year, however, graduate enrollment decreased in five fields: the biological sciences, engineering, humanities, physical sciences, and public administration. Engineering, humanities, and the physical sciences experienced the largest enrollment decreases, each dropping by 3 percent from 1996 to 1997.
- Health sciences was the notable exception to this overall decrease, posting a 1 percent increase in graduate enrollment from 1996 to 1997.

Table 2.4

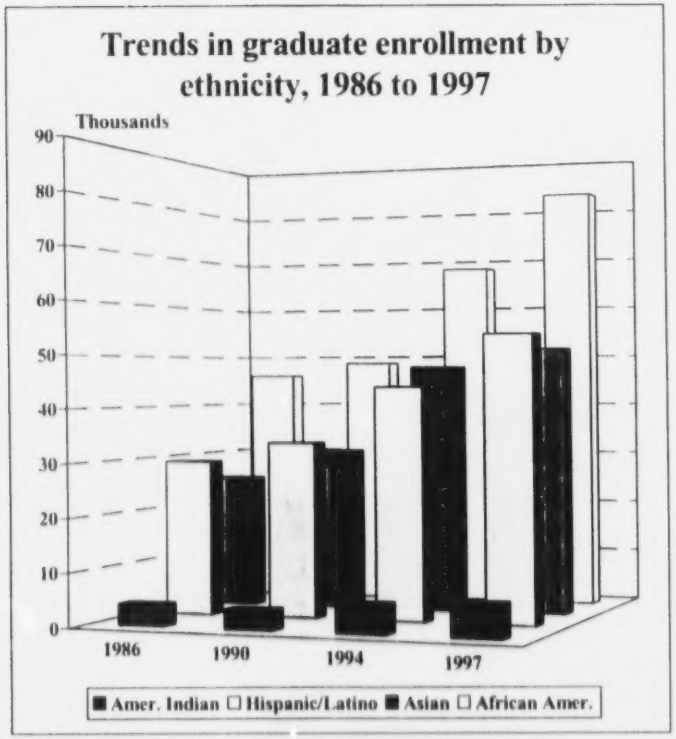
Trends in graduate enrollment by ethnicity, 1986 to 1997

(U.S. citizens and permanent residents only)

	1997	% Change *1996 to 1997*	Average Annual % Change *1986 to 1997*
Total U.S. Enrollment	**954,751**	**-2%**	***1%***
Men	385,965	*-3%*	*0%*
Women	529,824	*0%*	*2%*
African American	82,486	*4%*	*6%*
Men	26,277	*4%*	*5%*
Women	54,012	*5%*	*7%*
American Indian	5,953	*1%*	*4%*
Men	2,243	*-2%*	*4%*
Women	3,296	*3%*	*5%*
Asian	51,072	*0%*	*7%*
Men	24,588	*-3%*	*6%*
Women	24,927	*2%*	*10%*
Hispanic/Latino	53,560	*3%*	*6%*
Men	21,067	*3%*	*7%*
Women	30,892	*5%*	*9%*
White	761,680	*-2%*	*0%*
Men	311,790	*-4%*	*0%*
Women	416,697	*-1%*	*1%*

NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment



- As with total graduate enrollment, U.S.-citizen enrollment increased from 1986 to 1997, with enrollment of women rising at a faster pace than men.

- When observed over the 12 year period, the survey results indicate notable growth in the enrollment of members of U.S. minority groups. Asian Americans showed the greatest average annual increase in enrollment (7 percent), while the number of African Americans in graduate programs grew by an annual average of 6 percent.

- The number of African American and Hispanic/Latino men enrolled in graduate programs rose in the last year, while the number of American Indian and Asian men decreased. In contrast, enrollment of women in all minority groups increased, with the strongest growth rates among African Americans and Hispanic/Latinos, both at 5 percent, between 1996 and 1997.

- White graduate enrollment decreased by 2 percent from 1996 to 1997. The number of white men enrolled in graduate school has decreased by more than 4 percent over the last 3 years.

Table 2.5

Graduate enrollment by ethnic group and field, 1986 to 1997

(U.S. citizens and permanent residents only)

	1997	% Change 1996 to 1997	Ave. Annual % Change 1986 to 1997	1997	% Change 1996 to 1997	Ave. Annual % Change 1986 to 1997	1997	% Change 1996 to 1997	Ave. Annual % Change 1986 to 1997
	African American			*American Indian*			*Asian*		
Total	**82,486**	**4%**	**6%**	**5,953**	**1%**	**4%**	**51,072**	**0%**	**7%**
Biological Sciences*	2,188	2%	6%	249	5%	9%	3,687	-1%	9%
Business	12,335	1%	7%	613	-6%	4%	9,944	4%	9%
Education	22,787	5%	6%	1,382	-1%	2%	4,707	5%	9%
Engineering	2,417	-6%	10%	230	-3%	8%	6,753	-9%	4%
Health Sciences	4,606	1%	8%	414	-3%	6%	4,380	3%	12%
Humanities & Arts	3,460	-3%	7%	457	-4%	9%	3,063	-1%	9%
Physical Sciences	3,110	-4%	6%	261	-15%	6%	6,558	-6%	5%
Public Admin. & Serv.	6,629	-3%	8%	380	6%	7%	1,314	-1%	11%
Social Sciences	7,511	4%	8%	755	6%	10%	3,484	0%	10%
Other Fields**	6,751	9%	3%	410	-2%	3%	2,936	0%	7%
	Hispanic/Latino			*White*					
Total	**53,560**	**3%**	**6%**	**761,680**	**-2%**	**0%**			
Biological Sciences*	2,008	4%	5%	37,378	-2%	0%			
Business	8,590	7%	6%	113,862	-1%	-1%			
Education	12,869	2%	7%	179,208	-1%	1%			
Engineering	2,588	1%	8%	38,487	-9%	-1%			
Health Sciences	2,620	9%	11%	60,388	-1%	3%			
Humanities & Arts	4,972	0%	7%	68,128	-4%	1%			
Physical Sciences	2,168	-1%	4%	44,284	-6%	-2%			
Public Admin. & Serv.	3,441	2%	4%	31,806	-4%	3%			
Social Sciences	5,563	0%	8%	62,913	-2%	2%			
Other Fields**	3,493	-9%	0%	58,273	-7%	-1%			

NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total. Percentages are based on total of known field.

*"Biological Sciences" includes agriculture.

**The category "Other Fields" includes architecture, communications, home economics, library sciences, and religion.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment

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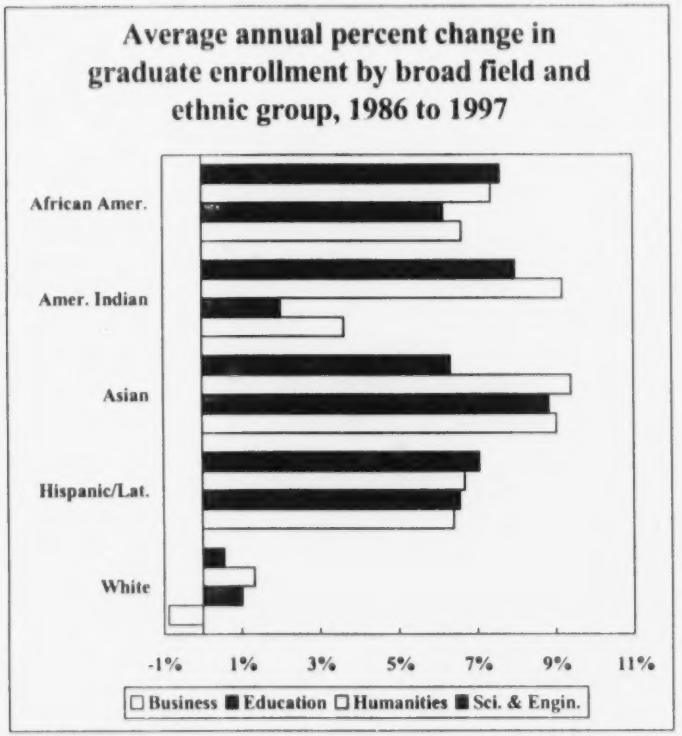


- Graduate enrollment increased consistently across most fields and ethnic groups from 1986 to 1997, although some fields and ethnic groups experienced more substantial growth than others.

- Since 1986, there were annual increases of at least 8 percent for Asians in all fields except engineering and physical sciences. The number of African American graduate students grew at annual rates of 10 percent in engineering and 8 percent in health sciences, social sciences, and public administration.

- Graduate enrollment in health sciences increased for all ethnic groups from 1986 to 1997. The highest annual growth rates occurred for Asian Americans and Hispanics/Latinos, with increases of 12 and 11 percent, respectively.

- In contrast to this general growth pattern, there were notable decreases in several fields and ethnic groups in the last year. The number of Asians decreased by 9 percent in engineering and by 6 percent in the physical sciences. African American enrollment decreased by 6 percent in engineering and 4 percent in the physical sciences, and the number of American Indians decreased by 15 percent in the physical sciences. Much of the decrease in science and engineering fields can be attributed to the very attractive job market for bachelor's-degree recipients with math and technical backgrounds.

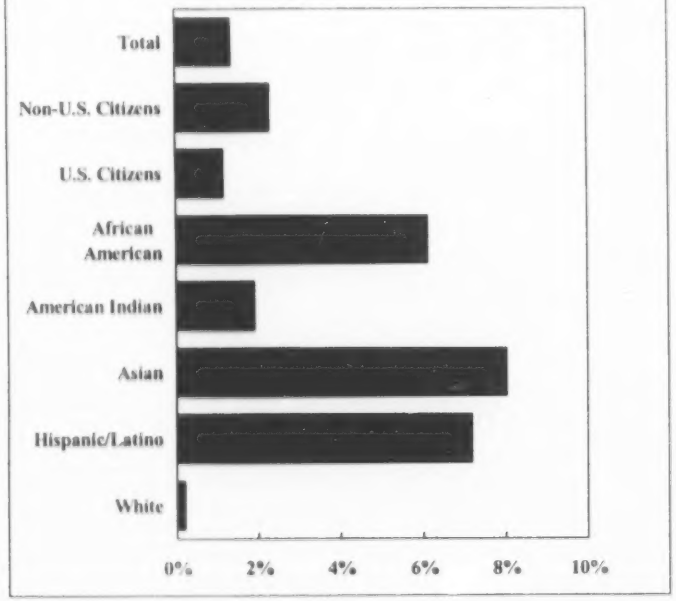
Table 2.6

First-time graduate enrollment by citizenship and ethnic group, 1986 to 1997

	1997	% Change 1996 to 1997	Average Annual % Change 1986 to 1997
Total First-Time Enrollment	**290,659**	*2%*	*1%*
Non-U.S. Citizen Temporary Residents	41,034	*10%*	*2%*
U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents	209,764	*0%*	*1%*
African American	17,821	*4%*	*6%*
American Indian	1,277	*-10%*	*2%*
Asian	12,605	*-2%*	*8%*
Hispanic/Latino	13,209	*3%*	*7%*
White	164,852	*0%*	*0%*

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment

Average annual percent change in first-time enrollment by citizenship and ethnic group, 1986 to 1997



- The number of students enrolled in graduate programs for the first time increased at a 1 percent rate over the 1986 to 1997 period.
- Much of the growth in U.S.-citizen and permanent-resident first-time enrollment was the result of increases in the enrollment of members of U.S. minority groups. For example, in the 12 year period Asian, Hispanic/Latino and African American first-time enrollment grew at annual rates of 8, 7, and 6 percent, respectively.
- Even though the overall number of U.S. first-time students remained stable in the last year, there were both increases and decreases among the ethnic groups. While the number of first-time African American and Hispanic/Latino students increased, this was counterbalanced by decreases among first-time Asian and American Indian students.
- The number of first-time international students jumped by 10 percent from 1996 to 1997, reflecting the continuing worldwide interest in graduate education in the U.S.

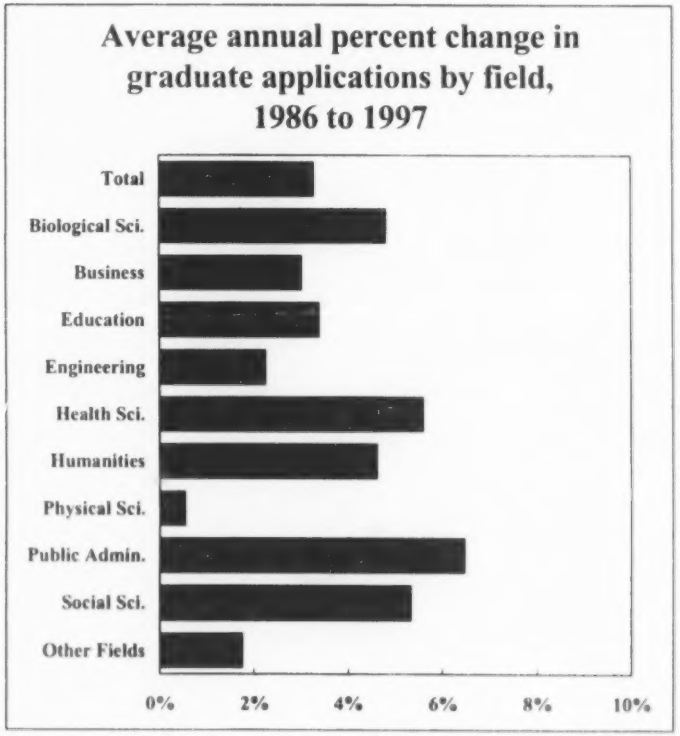
Table 2.7

Trends in graduate applications by field, 1986 to 1997

Major Field	1997	% Change *1996 to 1997*	Average Annual % Change *1986 to 1997*
Total	**1,024,144**	**-2%**	***3%***
Biological Sciences*	78,049	*3%*	*5%*
Business	136,750	*-2%*	*3%*
Education	103,079	*3%*	*3%*
Engineering	129,351	*2%*	*2%*
Health Sciences	76,596	*-2%*	*6%*
Humanities & Arts	99,515	*-6%*	*5%*
Physical Sciences	105,363	*-3%*	*1%*
Public Administration & Services	39,453	*1%*	*6%*
Social Sciences	130,897	*-5%*	*5%*
Other Fields**	89,636	*-2%*	*2%*

NOTE: Because not all institutions responded to all items, detail variables may not sum to total.
*"Biological Sciences" includes agriculture.
**The category "Other Fields" includes architecture, communications, home economics, library sciences, and religion.

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment



- Growth in the overall number of applications for graduate study has been strong during the 1986 to 1997 period, resulting in an average annual increase of 3 percent. However, in the last year the total number of applications decreased by 2 percent, falling in six of the ten fields shown in Table 2.7.

- Graduate applications have increased at the fastest pace in public administration and health sciences, each increasing by an annual average of 6 percent since 1986. The biological sciences, social sciences, and humanities applications followed closely with 5 percent annual average increases.

- Application trends across fields varied widely between 1996 and 1997. Some fields, particularly biological sciences and education, had modest growth in the number of applications received. Meanwhile, the number of applications to graduate programs declined in humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, business, and health sciences.

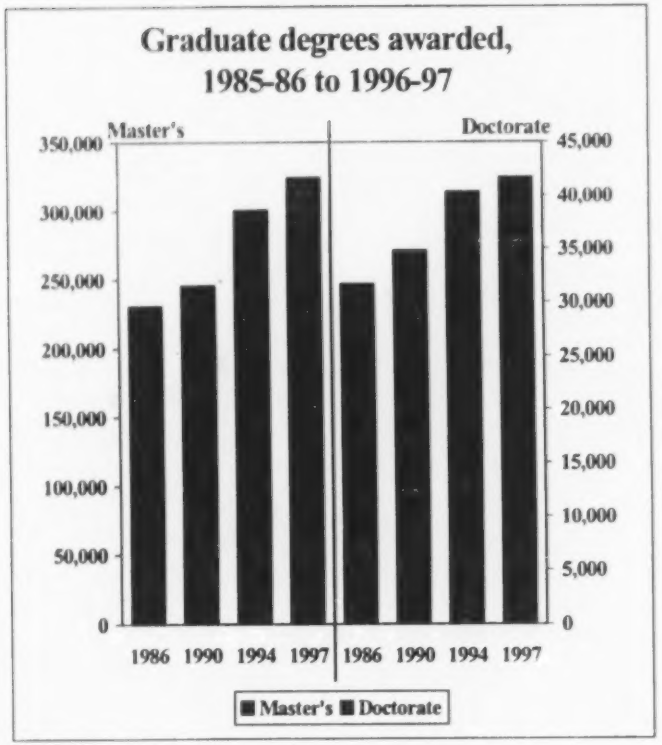
Note: Because these data are about *applications* and not *applicants*, some portion of these trends may stem from changes in the number of applications submitted per individual. However, in the absence of a marked change in the behavior of prospective graduate students, it is more likely that these data reflect a genuine change in the number of individuals interested in graduate education.

Table 2.8

Graduate degrees awarded, 1986 to 1997

	1997	% Change *1996 to 1997*	Average Annual % Change *1986 to 1997*
Master's Degrees	**324,399**	***1%***	***3%***
Public	210,109	*1%*	*3%*
Private	114,290	*2%*	*4%*
Research I	106,825	*1%*	*3%*
Doctorate-Granting	146,168	*2%*	*4%*
Master's-Granting	71,406	*0%*	*3%*
Doctoral Degrees	**41,741**	***0%***	***3%***
Public	29,415	*1%*	*3%*
Private	12,326	*-1%*	*1%*
Research I	28,204	*-1%*	*3%*
Doctorate-Granting	13,537	*2%*	*3%*

Source: CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment



- The number of master's and doctoral degrees granted increased by an annual average of 3 percent during the 1986 to 1997 period.
- All institutional categories exhibited increases in the granting of master's degrees from 1986 to 1997, with the number of master's degrees granted by Research I, Doctorate-Granting, and Master's institutions rising by an annual average of between 3 and 4 percent.
- In the last year, the number of doctorates granted by Research I institutions declined by 1 percent in contrast to the 2 percent increase in the Doctorate-Granting category.
- Because of the time lag between first enrollment and earning a graduate degree, the total number of master's and doctoral degrees rose from 1996 to 1997 even though graduate enrollment decreased. However, the decrease in doctorates granted by Research I institutions may be the first reflection in the degree data of graduate enrollment decreases.

Appendixes

Appendix A

1997 CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment Questionnaire

INSTITUTION NAME: _____ GRE INSTITUTION CODE: _____

I. Graduate Enrollment for 1997 Fall term	FIRST TIME			TOTAL (Includes First Time)		
	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Full Time						
Part Time						
Total						

II. Number of Degrees Conferred between July 1, 1996, and June 30, 1997, by Sex	MASTER'S	DOCTORAL
Men		
Women		
Total		

III. Number of Complete Applications Submitted for 1997 Fall Term	TOTAL
Accepted	
Not Accepted*	
Total	

*includes rejected and other

IV. Graduate Enrollment by Ethnicity for 1997 Fall Term		FIRST TIME			TOTAL (Includes First Time)		
		MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Non-Resident Aliens							
U.S. Citizens & Resident Aliens	American Indian/Alaskan Native						
	Asian or Pacific Islander						
	Black, Non-Hispanic						
	Hispanic -- Total						
	Puerto Rican						
	Mexican American						
	Other Hispanic						
	White, Non-Hispanic						
Other or Unknown							
Total *(Should match total row in question I)*							

Instructions for Completing Enrollment Survey Data Sheets

Please provide as much information as you have available. If you cannot provide information for a particular question, or section of a question, please enter "NA" (Not Available) in the corresponding boxes and continue to the next question. Enter "0" (ZERO) when the information you are supplying is zero (for example, if you do not have part-time students you would enter "0" in all boxes pertaining to numbers of part-time students).

In questions I to IV, the sum of all categories should equal the total (i.e., men + women = total enrollment, full time + part time = total enrollment, etc.). If discrepancies are found within any question we will contact you for verification.

In question II, if the highest degree your institution offers is a master's or specialist degree, enter "X" (Does Not Apply) in the three boxes corresponding to number of doctoral degrees awarded.

Enrollment Status Definitions

First Time ..... Students admitted and enrolled for the first time in graduate degree programs at your institution for the fall term.

Full Time ..... Students enrolled for credit in graduate degree programs who are engaged full time in training activities in their field; these activities may embrace any appropriate combination of study, teaching, and research, depending on your institution's own policy.

Part Time ..... Students who are enrolled in graduate degree programs who are NOT pursuing graduate work full time as defined above.

Ethnicity Definitions

Non-Resident Alien .... A person who is not a citizen or a national of the United States and who is in this country on a visa or temporary basis and does not have the right to remain indefinitely.

American Indian or Alaskan Native ..... A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America, and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.

Asian or Pacific Islander ..... A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands. This area includes, for example, China, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands, and Samoa.

Black, Non-Hispanic ... A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa (except those of Hispanic origin).

Hispanic -- Total ..... A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Puerto Rico, Mexico, Cuba, Central America, South America, or other Spanish culture, regardless of race. On the data sheet this total is further broken down into three Hispanic subgroups -- Puerto Rican, Mexican American, and Other Hispanic (Cuban, Central American, South American or other Spanish culture).

White, Non-Hispanic ... A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East (except those of Hispanic origin).

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CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment Taxonomy

Biological Sciences
- Agriculture
- Biological Sciences

Business
- Accounting
- Banking and Finance
- Business Administration and Management
- Business, Other

Education
- Administration
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Elementary Education
- Evaluation and Research
- Higher Education
- Secondary Education
- Special Education
- Student Counseling and Personnel Services
- Education, Other

Engineering
- Chemical
- Civil
- Electrical and Electronics
- Industrial
- Materials
- Mechanical
- Engineering, Other

Health Sciences
- Health and Medical Sciences

Humanities and Arts
- Arts - History, Theory, and Criticism
- Arts - Performance and Studio
- English Language and Literature
- Foreign Language and Literature
- History
- Philosophy
- Humanities and Arts, Other

Physical Sciences
- Chemistry
- Computer Sciences
- Earth, Atmospheric, and Marine Science
- Mathematical Sciences
- Physics and Astronomy
- Natural Sciences, Other

Public Administration and Services
- Public Administration
- Social Work

Social Sciences
- Anthropology
- Economics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Social Sciences, Other

Other Fields
- Architecture and Environmental Design
- Communications
- Home Economics
- Library and Information Sciences
- Religion and Theology
- All Other Fields

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- ***The CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment***

Since 1986, the Council of Graduate Schools and the Graduate Record Examinations Board have conducted an annual survey of graduate enrollment and degrees at the approximately 680 institutions that are members of the Council or its regional affiliates. These institutions account for 73 percent of graduate students enrolled in the U.S., and 79 and 95 percent, respectively, of master's and doctoral degrees awarded by U.S. institutions.

Methodology

The survey is conducted each fall. Institutions provide data on graduate enrollment and applications for the fall term, and data on degrees conferred during the previous (12-month) school year. Total data, as well as data from up to 51 individual disciplines, are collected from each institution. Consistently, more than 92 percent of the institutions complete and return the survey.

Data

Enrollment: Includes enrollment by gender, ethnicity, citizenship, enrollment status (full-time and part-time), and first-time enrollment for the fall term. Racial/ethnic data reported in this study are collected from institutional records that are based upon the self-report of graduate students. Accordingly, the number of students in any given racial/ethnic category is subject to individual interpretation on the part of students as they complete registration forms. Applications: Includes the number of complete applications submitted for the fall term, applications accepted, and applications not accepted. Degrees: Includes number of master's and doctoral degrees conferred by gender.

Reporting

The data are cross-referenced by institutional variables such as public or private affiliation, highest degree granted, and institution-type categories based on the Carnegie Classification system. Discipline data are grouped into nine broad fields plus "other." Trends in graduate enrollment and degrees since 1986 are reported in addition to the single-year data.

Data Availability

Survey results are published in the annual *Graduate Enrollment and Degrees*, available from CGS <http://www.cgsnet.org/vcr/>. Early release data and special reports are also published in the Council's newsletter, the *Communicator*.

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